

REMARKS

This Request for Reconsideration is offered in response to the Office Action of November 29, 2005.

It is respectfully submitted that this amendment will require neither a new search nor substantial reconsideration.

The Office Action rejected Claims 18-21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by the Johnson references (U.S. Patent No. 6,174,397 and U.S. Patent No. 6,321,423).

James Johnson, a joint inventor of the present application, is the sole inventor of the two cited Johnson references. A Declaration Under Rule 132 is attached to obviate this rejection.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) have been overcome.

With respect to the obviousness-type double patenting rejection with respect to U. S. Patent No. 6,110,586, the Applicant files herewith a terminal disclaimer thereby obviating this rejection.

In view of the above, each of the claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to early issue.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald E. Brown", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ronald E. Brown
Registration No. 32,200

Pitney Hardin LLP
7 Times Square
New York, New York 10036-7311
212-297-5800